

REMARKS

The Office Action dated June 19, 2007, has been received and reviewed. Claims 49-51 have been canceled, claims 26 and 52 have been amended, and new claims 54-55 have been added. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending rejections are respectfully requested.

Request for Information

Applicants were required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.105 to identify, if applicable, the serial number of any commonly invented or commonly assigned United States nonprovisional patent application that was pending as of January 18, 2007, and that cited any of the references submitted with the Information Disclosure Statements dated September 10, 2007, and May 8, 2007. The Examiner requested this information so that he could review such applications to check for relevant references and/or conflicting claims.

Applicants have made a good faith attempt to obtain the requested information and have made a reasonable inquiry once the information was requested. The requested information, however, is either unknown or is not readily available. *See* M.P.E.P. § 704.12(b). 3M Innovative Properties Company (3M IPC), which is the assignee for this application, is also the assignee for typically three thousand or more pending U.S. patent applications on any given day. Further, 3M IPC relies upon paper files as the official records for its pending applications. To provide the requested information, 3M IPC would likely have to physically search hundreds of paper files for Information Disclosure Statements that may include one or more of the references cited in the above-mentioned Information Disclosure Statements. Applicants submit that to do so would be overly burdensome and costly.

Claim Amendments

Claims 26 and 52 was amended to correct a typographical errors.

New claim 54 is previously presented claim 50 rewritten in independent form.

New claim 55 is previously presented claim 51 rewritten to depend from new claim 54.

No new matter was added.

Allowed Claims

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that claims 20-28 and 30-48 have been allowed.

Objected to Claims

Claim 52 was objected to because of a typographical error. Applicants have amended claim 52 to correct this error. Claim 53 was also objected to because of its dependence upon claim 52. Applicants respectfully request that the objections to claims 52-53 be withdrawn.

Claims 50-51 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have added new claim 54, which is previously presented claim 50 rewritten in independent form, and new claim 55, which is previously presented claim 51 rewritten to depend from new claim 54. Applicants submit that new claims 54-55 are in allowable form.

The 35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection

Claim 49 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Draper (U.S. Patent No. 4,386,824). Applicants traverse this rejection; however, to further move this application towards allowance, Applicants have canceled claim 49. Withdrawal of this rejection is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Summary

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections are respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' Representatives, at the below-listed telephone number, if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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